

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. The specification and claims 1 and 10 are amended herein to correct a lack of antecedent basis. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include one or more reference numbers not mentioned in the specification.

Applicant has amended the specification to describe the sublayers (133a, 133b, and 133c) of the pinned layer 133, to which the Examiner objected as not being described in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Reference number 72 has been deleted from Figure 7A. Please see the attached "Replacement Sheet" included as Appendix A. In addition, the specification has been amended to include language describing reference number 71, which is shown in Figure 7A. Reference number 71 refers to an insulator, as supported at least by the schematic and text of Fig. 7C. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure as amended on April 13, 2004 because it is not "within the range of 50 to 150 words." Applicants have amended the abstract herein to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner also objected to the disclosure because of the use of the phrase "GMR element T1" in line 6 on page 24. Applicants have amended this portion of the specification as suggested by the Examiner for consistency with the remainder of the disclosure.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner asserted that claims 2-3 and 10 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

To overcome this rejection, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10 to provide proper antecedent basis for the claims.

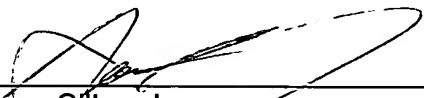
Double Patenting

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-13 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-16 of copending application serial no. 10/823,474 (corresponding to 2004/0207960) and over claims 1-83 of copending application serial no. 10/823,484 (corresponding to 2004/0207962). At this time, neither of these applications has issued as a patent. Applicant will execute a terminal disclaimer at the appropriate time if either of these applications issues as a patent.

SUMMARY

Applicants believe that all of the pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A